

## STAR PLAYERS SELDOM COVER UP AN ALIBI FOR THEIR WORK

Leading Players Rarely Try to Cover Up at the Expense of Some One Else When They Err.

BY BILLY EVANS.

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"Why is it that the star players seldom make any trouble for the umpire?" That is a question that is asked me time and again. The lover of base ball catches a really clever move of the game, and naturally he has observed that the real stars of the game rarely kick so strongly that it becomes necessary to put them out of the game. National League umpires tell me that Alexander and Mathewson are the two best pitchers in the league to umpire for, as they never dispute a called ball or strike. No American League umpire can ever recall the time that either Johnnie or Evers questioned a ruling. In fact, I have often heard him tell other members of his team that the umpire was right when the general opinion was that the official had erred in his ruling.

It is the same in any other branch of the sport, the really great players, the leaders, as a rule, accept the decisions of the umpire without question. They often believe the umpire has erred, in a good many cases they let the official know that they believe he has erred, but they invariably do it in such a way that any umpire with any common sense would be able to see the reason for the decision. I have often heard people say, "Eddie Collins is not aggressive enough." They mean this because Collins is not being put out of the ball game over so often. It is a fact that Eddie Collins is an aggressive player, a type that is not known to the public. Collins can protest as strongly as any player in the league, but he never fails to register his protest, but there is nothing of the grandstand variety in his protest. He does nothing by word or action that will cause the crowd to believe that the umpire has erred. He listens to and gives consideration when he enters a protest for the reason that it is the expression of an honest opinion.

### Stars Need No Alibi.

But to get back to the opening question, the real reason that star players as a rule seldom incur the displeasure of the umpire, is simply that they never find it necessary to seek an alibi in order to cover up either lack of ability or failure to have properly completed a play. The real good ball player can always make good on the great alibi of the umpire, and every now and then get him into a hole because of a mistake. Umpires make mistakes, so do star ball players. Both are human beings, and the player who has some brains, or he wouldn't be a star, is broad minded enough to take all things into consideration.

The fellows who make the most trouble for the umpire are the ones who are stars, yet fall considerably shy of that class. This phase of the question is not of the grandstand variety, sport, the majors, the minors, the semi-professionals and the amateurs. Another class of players who make trouble for the umpire are the ones who are half dozen cases of players now rated as stars. Just as soon as they get into the line of the game, they are the proper kind of aggressiveness they have made any trouble for the officials.

### Aggressive Players in Demand.

Major league leaders like aggressive players. The minor leaguer who can

show pepper and aggressiveness of the right sort has much more chance of being a rule than the player who accepts every ruling without a word. A player who is not aggressive is not a star. He is chased to the clubhouse or has to sit out a suspension in the grandstand. The day of that style of aggressiveness is over. It is costly to the owner, club and patrons, for often they are deprived of seeing the player who attracted them to the park. The modern manager wants the player who can be aggressive, yet do it in a way that does not excite the wrath of the umpire. Johnny Evers is one of the few really great players who are in constant hot water with the umpires. Evers has one thing strongly in his favor in this respect—his kicks are actually from the heart, not actuated by a desire to alibi. Evers is one of the greatest players of all times, reputed to be one of the greatest infielders in the history of the game, yet he is unable to see the error of his way in his attitude toward the umpire. I have never met Evers personally, but I am told that he is a mild-mannered individual off the field, but on the ball field he is a raging torrent, and will be as such as long as the umpire's rulings appear to be going the wrong way. Evers' kicking has that one in common with the alibi sort: simply the nature of the man when in the heat of battle.

Of the nine stars of the players Johnny Evers and Eddie Collins stand out prominently. They are credited with being the two greatest second basemen in the game. Arguments have been caused by discussion of the relative merits of the two stars. There is little to choose between the two. Collins is the better batsman, and on the bases also shows to advantage. Both have more brains than the average amount of gray matter, and dubious which they play invariably look up to them to direct the play. Evers is a great team out of the Boston Braves—in fact, played a big part in turning a second division club into a pennant winner.

Both are aggressive players, and in a word, Collins is the better player. Mack sold him to Chicago. He proved just the man needed to round out Comiskey's club and make it a strong contender.

### Comparing Two Great Stars.

In most respects these two players are similar and practically equal, yet in one respect they are entirely different in their attitude toward the umpire. Evers is aggressive, so is Collins, although a great many fans do not regard him as that type of player. Evers with his fiery temper can protest, yet do it in such a way that the official can register an equally strong protest, yet do it in such a way that the official can register an equally strong protest, yet do it in such a way that the official can register an equally strong protest.

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## Interesting Golf Notes From the Local Clubs

The tentative dates for the women's championship of the District, as announced at the annual meeting of the District of Columbia Golf Association on Monday night, have been changed. At Monday's meeting, May 22, 23, 24 and 25 were practically decided upon, but the matter was left for final decision to the golf committee of the Chevy Chase Club, on which course it will be played. This committee has decided to postpone the event forward a week and has announced it for the four days—May 15, 16, 17 and 18.

The decision to hold its annual tournament came as quite a surprise to the members of the club, as the women's golf affairs closely were better able to read "the handwriting on the wall" and were well aware that the hundred or so local women players were entitled to recognition and were, in fact, on the verge of being recognized. The change in dates was made necessary by the fact that the Chevy Chase Club has decided to hold its annual invitation tournament on May 25, 26 and 27—the same week as was at first announced for the women's event. It is decided that it would be best to have the course open for the entire week so that it would not interfere with the usual custom of extending the course to the public on other days. The women's golfers are well acquainted with the two events, the club also has decided to hold its annual invitation tournament on May 25, 26 and 27—the same week as was at first announced for the women's event.

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## SOME OF THE WORK RAY MORGAN IS DOING TO FIT HIMSELF TO PLAY SECOND BASE.

Boxing Conditions Muddled by New Scale of Weights. New York Commission Once More Changes Allowances for Scrappers in the Different Classes.

BY T. S. ANDREWS.

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MORGAN, WHO IS SOMEWHAT OVERWEIGHT, WRAPS HIMSELF IN FLANNELS AND SEVERAL "SWEAT" SHIRTS IN ORDER TO REDUCE HIS SURPLUS WEIGHT. THIS EXTRA CLOTHING IS PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS BULKY APPEARANCE.

John H. Clapp, one of its members, who is playing at Pinehurst. Clapp now is putting in his best game with the club, and is expected to be called off to the major league in a number of events during the past month.

The board of governors of the Kirk-side Golf Club plans to go over to the new scale of weights, and so to pass on the proposed changes which the green committee has suggested and which will do away with several holes which now cross one another and will, it is generally believed, make the course a much better one. They are accomplished mainly by a plan by which the holes are moved, and the new scale of weights is adopted.

It begins to look now as if the indoor tournament which the Kirk-side and Hunt clubs had planned to hold in the future, but has been delayed by the appointment of a professional to take charge of it. A tournament of work and needs some of experience to take charge of it. There are only a few who have the experience, and they are not in the city.

There has been another change in the committee at Chevy Chase. The board of governors having chosen Col. C. G. Treat as chairman, and Samuel D. Dell as the other members of the committee. The special committee has been put out of the game, he does not only himself an injustice, but also his club. Evers and Collins to a team in the fight for the pennant. They are almost absolutely essential.

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## SHERRID SMITH LEAD BOTH LEAGUES IN PICKING NAPPERS.

Score in Chess Match Is Now a Tie, Each With a Three and One-Half Score.

BY ERNEST J. LANIGAN.

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When the Superbas go on their travels this season, Charles Hercules Smith can, if he so desires, cast attention to the fact that in Sherrid Smith's team possesses the pitcher who, in 1915, picked more men out of the bases than any of his curving contemporaries in either National or American league. Before hostilities began last year two brainy athletes—John Evers of the Braves and George Moriarty, then of the Tigers—were asked to name the hurlers most effective at holding runners up and picking them off the bases. The National League thought Tom Hughes of his team as good as any, while the American League put in a strong boost for Eddie Cicotte and Jim Scott of the White Sox, and said that E. Albi Walsh of the Rowlandites probably was the king of them all. Walsh worked in very few games last year, and Evers, when he expressed his belief in the National League's choice, for Hughes ranked next to Smith in the National in trapping men off the pillows and Cicotte stood first and Scott second in this respect in the American.

Toward the end of the season a younger pitcher, Big Ben, came along, who, if he is not shunted back to the minors, may take from Smith his position as the king of the bases. The National League's choice, for Hughes ranked next to Smith in the National in trapping men off the pillows and Cicotte stood first and Scott second in this respect in the American.

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